

FORCEPS SEWED UP IN DR. I. B. WASHBURN'S BODY AND CARRIED TWO YEARS

Indiana Physician a Victim of One of the Most Remarkable Surgical Blunders Known.

DIED AT VALPARAISO

After an Operation Had Been Performed to Relieve Pains in His Side.

RUSTY FORCEPS FOUND

About Six Inches Long and Had Been Left Near the Liver During a Previous Operation.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 12.—Dr. I. B. Washburn, who had practiced medicine at Rensselaer, Ind., for over forty years and was one of the most widely known practitioners in northern Indiana, died in Valparaiso on Friday at a private hospital conducted by Dr. David J. Loring, formerly a professor in the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Washburn was seventy years of age and the cause of his death is one of the most remarkable known to medical science. For the past two years he has carried in his body a pair of heavy steel artery forceps which were accidentally left in his body during an operation which he underwent two years ago in the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago.

It was the second time in his life that the aged doctor had been operated upon and it was to undo the work of the former operation two years before that Dr. Washburn was placed on the operating table in the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. During the progress of the operation a pair of heavy artery forceps about six inches long were used in the side just between the lung and the liver. For some reason Dr. Christian Fenger, assistant to the consulting surgeon at the hospital, forgot the instruments and they were sewed up in Dr. Washburn's body. Since that time the aged physician complained of terrible pains in his side and sought relief of all kinds, but it was unavailing.

AMAZING DISCOVERY.
Last Wednesday Dr. Washburn came to Hammond from Rensselaer to attend the annual meeting of the Kankakee Valley Medical Society. He read a paper before the convention and, after finishing, complained of pains in his side. He spoke of his suffering to Dr. Loring, who is president of the society, and the latter attempted to diagnose the unusual case. The Valparaiso doctor induced Dr. Washburn, at the adjournment of the meeting, to go with him to Valparaiso, and with the consent of the aged doctor's son, Dr. I. Washburn, Jr., of Rensselaer, he was again put on the operating table in the Loring Hospital.

Dr. Loring himself conducted the operation, and was amazed to discover penetrating the liver a pair of forceps unusually black and heavy with rust. The shock was too much for Dr. Washburn, and he died on Friday.

The aged physician was organizer of the Kankakee Valley Medical Association. Two of his sons are physicians in Rensselaer and Goodland, Ind., and his daughter, Miss Mary Washburn, lives in this city.

Dr. Washburn, of Rensselaer, died today, as he accompanied the remains of his father from Valparaiso to this city, that the negligence of the Presbyterian Hospital doctors undoubtedly caused his father's death.

LATE DR. FENGER PLAYS PART.
The records of the Presbyterian Hospital show that Dr. Washburn was a patient in that institution on two different occasions. The last time was Jan. 2, 1902, when he was admitted for treatment by Dr. Nicholas Senn. It appears that Dr. Senn was called away from the city about that date and was unable to attend to the case, but the operation on the patient was therefore performed by the late Dr. Christian Fenger. The circumstances of the operation are not recalled by the hospital attendants.

"My father knows nothing of the case," said Dr. E. J. Senn, this evening. "I knew from a son of Dr. Washburn that his father was in the hospital at the time, but he was not Dr. Senn's patient. Dr. Senn never saw the man."

Dr. Karl Doepfner, who was a clerical assistant of Dr. Fenger during the winter of 1902-3, says that the second time Dr. Washburn came to the hospital for treatment was in January, 1902. He was operated on by Dr. Fenger Feb. 7 and the doctors found "an obliterating inflammation of the bile ducts, for which nothing could be done. Dr. Washburn left the hospital on the 28th of February in an unimproved condition."

Dr. Doepfner stated that the instrument found must have been left in the body at one of the two operations, but he says that as the doctor was suffering from a trouble that no operation could improve there was no proof that it was the presence of the instrument that caused his death.

Dr. John Irwin was the interne who attended the second operation. He has gone West and his whereabouts are unknown.

Dr. Wiley, the interne at the first operation, said Dr. Fenger on May 7, 1900, is also in the West somewhere.

BRIEF SKETCH OF THE DOCTOR'S LONG CAREER
Israel B. Washburn was born in Cass county, Indiana, on Jan. 3, 1833. He received his early education in the schools of his native county and afterward went to Franklin College, where he took a scientific course. He taught school in Fulton and Cass counties, and completed his medical work in Chicago and was graduated from Rush Medical College. Nine months after his graduation he enlisted as a private in the Forty-sixth Indiana Infantry, and two months later was detailed to help hospital service. He was mustered out as a regimental surgeon in December of 1864. After the war he practiced medicine in Pulaski county, Ill. In 1870 he was elected to the Legislature from Pulaski, Jasper and Newton counties and served one term. From 1873 to 1877 he was in the drug business in Logansport, and in the latter year he removed to Rensselaer, where he lived until his death. He was county physician of Jasper county for many years. He was a Republican, a member of the Christian Church and of a number of medical societies. In 1864 he married Mattie Moore, daughter of a merchant of Royal Center. They had six children, of whom four survive.

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Mr. Goodwin was on his way to a Brooklyn theater for the evening performance in an automobile brought him which had almost reached the Brooklyn tower when it became erratic. He heard something crack, and suddenly the machine crashed into the side of the roadway and the actor was sent flying upward and out of the open door.

His head struck the iron railing at the side of the bridge, and though almost unconscious he managed to get out of the machine. The chauffeur was knocked from his seat and lay still in the road, while many people jumped from passing trolleys and ran to the scene. The wounded actor was taken to the Brooklyn end of the bridge, blood streaming from his head, and he was removed to a hospital. He was taken to the hospital and is now in a serious condition. The chauffeur was cut seriously in the hand.

Woman Acquitted of Murder.
MOUNT HOLLY, N. J., Dec. 12.—Mrs. Sarah A. Beatty, who was charged with the murder of her husband, Samuel Beatty, on July 6 last, was acquitted today. Mrs. Beatty claimed she killed her husband in self-defense. The jury was out eighteen hours.

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